CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method comprising:

1   defining a library of available criteria to be used in filtering a

2   population of items to identify items of interest, each criterion having a

3   graphical representation;

4   receiving a selection of at least one of the criterion to be applied to the

5   population as a filter;

6   accepting an indication of a tier of the filter to which the selected

7   criterion is to be associated;

8   identifying a list of items of interest satisfying a current set of criteria

9   defining the filter; and

10   displaying a graphical representation of the filter while the filter is

11   constructed.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   including the selected criterion into the indicated tier such that a graphical

3   representation of the selected criterion is merged with a graphical

4   representation of the indicated tier in the graphical representation of the filter.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   applying a Boolean OR to those criteria on a same tier of the filter; and

3   applying a Boolean AND to those criteria residing on different tiers of

4   the filter.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   displaying a representation of the list of items of interest.

1   5.   The method of claim 4 wherein identifying comprises:

2   computing a tally of the list of items of interest.

1   6.   The method of claim 5 further comprising:

2   displaying the tally of the list of items of interest.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   receiving an indication of one of the tiers of the filter;

3   identifying, in response to receiving, a group of items satisfying the

4 filter at the indicated tier;

5   displaying the group of items.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 wherein the population comprises a group of

2 securities.

1   9.   The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria

2 comprises criteria derived from a community of investors.

1   10.   The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria

2 comprises user customizable filter criteria.

1   11.   The method of claim 1 wherein the library of available criteria

2 comprises predefined criteria.

1   12.   A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon which

2 when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform operations

3 comprising:

4   defining a library of criteria to be used in filtering a population of items

5 to identify items of interest, each criterion having a graphical representation;

6   receiving a selection of at least one of the criterion to be applied to the

7 population as a filter;

8   accepting an indication of a tier of the filter to which the selected

9 criterion is to be associated;

10   identifying a list of items of interest satisfying a current set of criteria

11 defining the filter; and

12   displaying a graphical representation of the filter while the filter is

13 constructed.

1   13.   The machine readable medium of claim 12 in which the instructions

2   cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:

3   including the selected criterion into the indicated tier such that a

4   graphical representation of the selected criterion is merged with a graphical

5   representation of the indicated tier in the graphical representation of the filter.

1   14.   The machine readable medium of claim 12 in which the instructions

2   cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:

3   applying a Boolean OR to those criteria on a same tier of the filter; and

4   applying a Boolean AND to those criteria residing on different tiers of

5   the filter.

1   15.   The machine readable medium of claim 12 in which the instructions

2   cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:

3   displaying a representation of the list of items of interest.

1   16.   The machine readable medium machine readable medium of claim 12

2   wherein the population comprises a group of securities.

1   17.   The machine readable medium of claim 12 in which the instructions

2   cause the processor to perform operations further comprising:

3   receiving an indication of one of the tiers of the filter;

4   identifying, in response to receiving, a group of items satisfying the

5   filter at the indicated tier;

6   displaying the group of items.